Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A facet implant comprising:

a superior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and being configured for placement on a superior articular facet;

a inferior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and being configured for placement on an inferior articular facet and for interacting with a translaminar fixation mechanism, whereby the articulating surface of the superior implant and the articulating surface of the inferior implant are configured to interact; and

a translaminar fixation mechanism for securing the inferior implant to the inferior articular facet.

2. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the translaminar fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: a translaminar screw, a bolt ~~and~~ or a fixation pin.

3. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 2 wherein the inferior implant is configured to interact with the translaminar fixation mechanism such that the translaminar fixation mechanism ranges from about 0 degrees to about 15 degrees offset.

4. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein at least one of the superior implant and the inferior implant comprises a surface fixation mechanism.

5. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 4 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: one or more pegs, one or more pips, ridges, or one or more screws.

6. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 4 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises multiple regions wherein each of the regions has at least one ridges oriented in a different direction than the ridges of the other regions.

7. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein at least one of the fixation surfaces of the inferior implant and the superior implant has at least one of: a porous coating, a porous onlay material, a biologic coating, ~~and~~ or a surface treatment.

8. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the articulating surface of the superior implant is generally curved.

9. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the fixation surface of the superior implant is generally curved.

10. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the articulating surface of the inferior implant is generally curved.

11. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein at least one of the articulating surfaces of the inferior implant and the superior implant is composed of at least one of: cobalt-chromium alloy, ceramic, UHMWPE, pyrolytic carbon, ~~and~~ or Ti/Al/V.

12. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the inferior implant ranges from about 2 mm thick to about 15 mm thick.

13. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 1 wherein the superior implant ranges from about 2 mm thick to about 15 mm thick.

14. (Previously presented) A facet implant comprising:

a superior implant having a fixation surface and a generally curved articulating surface, the superior implant being configured for placement on a specifically prepared articulating surface of a superior articular facet; and

an inferior implant having a fixation surface and a generally convex articulating surface, the inferior implant being configured for placement on a specifically prepared articulating surface of an inferior articular facet, whereby the generally curved articulating surface of the superior implant and the generally convex articulating surface of the inferior implant being configured to interact.

15. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 14 wherein at least one of the superior implant and the inferior implant comprises a surface fixation mechanism.

16. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 15 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: one or more pegs, one or more pips, ridges, ~~and~~ or one or more screws.

17. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 15 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises multiple regions wherein each of the regions has at least one ridges oriented in a different direction than the ridges of the other regions.

18. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 14 wherein at least one of the fixation surfaces of the inferior implant and the superior implant has at least one of: a porous coating, a porous onlay material, a biologic coating, ~~and~~ or a surface treated to facilitate bone ingrowth.

19. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 14 wherein at least one of the articulating surfaces of the inferior implant and the superior implant is composed of at least one of: cobalt-chromium alloy, ceramic, UHMWPE, ~~paralytic~~ pyrolytic carbon, ~~and~~ or Ti/Al/V.

20. (Previously presented) A facet implant comprising:

a superior implant having a fixation surface and a generally curved articulating surface, the superior implant being configured for placement on a specifically prepared articulating surface of a superior articular facet;

a inferior implant having a fixation surface and a generally convex articulating surface, the inferior implant being configured for placement on a specifically prepared articulating surface of an inferior articular facet and for interacting with a translaminar screw, whereby the articulating surface of the superior implant and the articulating surface of the inferior implant being configured to interact; and

a translaminar fixation mechanism for securing the inferior implant to the inferior articular facet.

21-40. Cancelled.